



A City Without Walls

Imagine yourself a general in the army a thousand, two thousand, three thousand years ago. You are on a conquest, capturing every city along the route. These cities you're coming to aren't like Indianapolis or Louisville. In the old days there was a wall around every city, a wall that must be thick and strong because it was the primary fortification against aggressors.

So here you go, determined to take the city just ahead. You can't simply walk through the gates, because the gates are heavily guarded. You could position your catapults and throw boulders over the walls, but in the process you might be destroying the very treasures you want to walk away with. What you really must do is tear down the walls. Once they are down, the city is yours. An ancient city was totally helpless without its walls. It had no defenses, no protection, no safety—it was just easy prey for whatever foreign invader wanted to walk in.

The ancient proverb says, "A man without a self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls" (Proverbs 25:28). The point is not hard to see: without self-control, a person has no safeguards, no defenses. In his weakness he is ripe for any idea, any suggestion that comes along.

The whole idea of self-control suggests that there are at least two dimensions to every person. There is the part that is apt to get OUT of control (the temper, the emotions, the drives and impulses). Then there is also the part that acts like a guard, a sentry inside us. When everything is normal, these two parts of our personality stay in balance. But when somebody lets his sentry go to sleep, things begin to crumble for that person. He may eat too much, drink too much; she may say things or do things she shouldn't. Self-control has vanished.

Where does self-control come from? In Galatians 5, Paul says it's a part of the fruit of the Spirit. In his second letter, Peter says it's one of the things we're to "add" to our faith. So it's a gift from God to which we have applied energy and concentration working toward perfection. Without self-control, we are as vulnerable as an ancient city without walls.

G. Crowe

Fast-Food Faith

In the last 50 years our lives have sped up tremendously. Because of this, businesses have made great efforts to accommodate us by making things faster. There are drive thrus for everything now. Drive thrus for our evening meals, for our dry cleaning, and, yes, even drive thru chapels where people can get married. It truly is a fast-food world.

The problem is that when businesses did this they did not simply accommodate our fast-paced lives, they fueled and fanned the flame. A cycle began which can not easily reverse. Drive thrus have made things faster for us . . . so now we can speed up our lives even more, so much so that when the drive thru takes more than 2-3 minute to have our food ready, we get angry (time how long it takes you to become impatient next time).

Many Christians now have a fast-food faith. We show up for worship, ask to be spoon-fed our belief system, and if services go over the allotted time we become angry or impatient (time yourself and see how long it takes you to become impatient next time).

God, however, does not always work on *our* timetable. In fact, he does so rarely. It might do our churches good to trade in a fast-food approach to faith for a patient, listening heart. Instead of waiting to be spoon-fed on Sunday mornings, we all ought to spend time meditating on Scripture this week and patiently waiting for God to speak to us. When God feeds us, it is not a Big-Mac, but instead it is manna from heaven, exactly what we need to survive, and that is worth being patient for and slowing our lives down.

~Dan



Mr. & Mrs. Mark S. McClain
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter, Mary Rachel
to her best friend, Jared Ryan Fee,
son of Mr. & Mrs. James R. Fee,
Saturday, June 10, 2006, at half past three in the afternoon.
Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Avenue, Lafayette, Indiana

Reception immediately following serving cake and munchies
Hillenbrand Atrium Dining Room, Purdue University

Prayer Concerns....

Valley Stockton will have an echogram June 12, and an angiogram on June 14 to determine the extent of her recently detected heart problems....**Elizabeth Tinkle** will have surgery on her leg some time this month....**A.L. Otto**, Carrie Roberts' father in Midland, Texas, is in the hospital undergoing tests for heart problems....**Jim Rustin**, Diann Doty's father, is receiving chemo treatments for cancer of the pancreas and lungs....Continue praying for **Nathan Weir** (*newborn receiving chemo treatment for tumor on his liver*), **Ken Nicholson**, **Sarah Watts**, **Kaden Koebcke**, **Noah Powlen**, **Natasha Risley**, **Phyllis Gray**, **Mark Eddy**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Anna Dale**, **Carrie High** (*Regency Place Nursing Home*), **Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor Nursing Home*), **Delpha Allen**, **Paul & Ruth Marks**, **Minnie Scott**, and **Burnell Gulden** (*Rosewalk Village*)....

Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner**, **Loren Sniffen**, and **Brad King**. Serving in South Korea near the DMZ: **Amanda Martin**.

Focus on the Family Programs

Upcoming **Focus on the Family** programs are heard on local radio, WHPL-FM 89.9 at **7:30 PM Monday-Friday**.

- June 8-9* **Navigating Today's Youth Culture**—A panel discusses some current youth culture trends that parents need to be aware of, including the wildly popular MySpace.com Web site and "chick lit" (literature for teen girls). (Part 1 & 2)
- June 12-14* **Staying Strong in College**—Author David Wheaton and Dartmouth student Noah Riner talk about how Christian college students can remain strong in their faith despite the many pressures they face. (Part 1, 2, & 3)
- June 15, 16* **The Vital Role of Fathering**—Josh McDowell talks about the important role that fathers play in the lives of their kids. (Part 1 & 2)
- July 19* **One Pitch from Humility**—Former pro baseball player Frank Pastore shares how God taught him that we are always just one pitch away from humility.



Happy Anniversary!



Rick & Doris Swensen
celebrated their 58th wedding
anniversary June 6! Congratulations!

Congratulations!

Suzanne Fournier received Purdue's Undergraduate Teaching Award for the Department of Sociology. What an honor! This makes her eligible for consideration for the Graduate Teaching Award for the entire university next year. For two more weeks Suzanne will be teaching at Cascade College in Portland, Oregon.

New Addresses

Herb & Mary Ella King
287 Usher Rd.
Madison, AL 35757

PFC, Devine, Philip
SOI, ITB, Charlie Co., 1st PLT
Building #520445
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055

Martin/Amanda
4th Cem Co. Unit #15111,
Apo.AP 96224).

June 4, 2006
Class: 179 Worship: 260
Contribution: \$8,733
Budget: \$8,100



Well, summer is here in full swing and schools are out (albeit a day later than some were hoping). With summer comes a TON of activities and events for the church and especially the youth group. Here are a few of the upcoming activities this summer that the youth group will be participating in.

Camp C.U.M.O. fellowship
at Greatimes-June 21st

Elevate @ Rochester College - June 25th-30th

The Ride (Trip to Cedar Point)- June 30th

Camp C.U.M.O. mission trip - July 8th-14th

Spring Mill Bible Camp Senior week -
July 16-22

Spring Mill Bible Camp Intermediate week-
July 23-28

Free Car Wash for the congregation - TBA

Glider Flight - TBA

Food Pantry restocking - every Friday morning

Bi-weekly service project- TBD

(Let Phil Travis know if you have anything that might need doing, or if you know of anyone who needs some help!)

As we start to fill up the schedule for the summer, I would like to take this time to let the parents know that we understand that summer is a time for you to spend time as a family as well. We don't expect all the teens to participate in every event and we encourage you to spend time together as a family. Although Lee and I would love to see huge numbers, we are much more interested in developing healthy families. Sometimes the best decision for busy teenagers to make is to *not* participate in a youth group activity, but to spend time developing relationships in their family.

-Phil Travis

A Baby Shower!

Becky Pitt (630 Central Avenue, Lafayette) is hosting a baby shower for **Kristie Beeler** and newborn daughter, **Josephine**, on **June 8 from 6:00 until 8:00 PM**. You may give money to Becky or Jenny Sipe if you wish to contribute to a group gift.

Attention Elmwood Women

Mark your calendars for a carry-in dinner and presentation on the women's ministry on July 22, at 5:30 PM. Watch future bulletins and newsletters for more information.
-Sue Wilder

Thank You!

Thank you sincerely for sharing our sorrow. Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

-Frances Simmons & the family of Nancy Levick

Thank you for the cards and prayers when Grandpa James passed away. Also the beautiful plant you sent was a welcome addition to the service. Thanks again.

-The Moore family

What an Honor!

BSA Troop 336 will honor **Peter Bell** with a presentation of the rank of Eagle Scout on Monday, June 12, 2006, at 7:30 PM, at the Covenant Presbyterian Retreat Center. Family and friends of Peter are invited to attend the ceremony. (The Retreat Center is located behind the Covenant Presbyterian church building and the meeting room is on the second floor. There is not an elevator in this building.)



June 7, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
June 10, 3:30 PM....McClain/Fee wedding
June 11, 6 PM....Singing with Josh Boyd
June 13....Let's Start Talking Team leaves for Suva, Fiji

Read:

1 Kings 21-22; Jonah 1-4;
Ecclesiastes 5-10; Philemon;
2 Kings 1-8

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 25: June 18-24

"The Widow's Oil"

In 2 Kings 4:1-7 we find an interesting story of the widow's oil. The widow's family was obviously people of God. This unnamed widow in a desperate and grieving moment cried out to her friend, the prophet Elisha, about debts that the family had incurred. She said that their creditors were coming to take her two sons as slaves to work off this debt as permitted by Mosaic Law. Elisha calmly responded to the widow's cry by asking her what assets she had available in her house. She said that they had "nothing there at all, except a little oil." Olive oil was a precious commodity to those in the ancient Middle East, but the widow claimed to have a little oil. Elisha instructed the family to go ask their neighbors for a lot of empty jars. The widow and her two sons were to privately pour "their" oil into these jars. As they filled the jars with oil it seemed that there was strangely an unlimited source of oil from the small amount they thought they had. It was a miracle! When they ran out of jars, the oil stopped flowing. Amazed, the widow went to Elisha and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."

What can we learn from this? Obviously God will provide for us! Do you believe this? Elisha was not only a prophet, but he was a vehicle of God's miracles. Consider also the words of another prophet, Jeremiah: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). Do you have faith in God that He will take care of you and your needs?

-Mark McClain